Kerosene (SKO): Allocation of PDS SKO is made by the Government of India to different States/Union Territories (UTs) on a quarterly basis for distribution under PDS for cooking and illumination only. Further distribution within the States/UTs through their PDS network is the responsibility of the concerned States/UTs. The scale of distribution of PDS SKO per card holder varies from State to State. In accordance with the policy adopted by the Government of India in 2000, SKO allocation for distribution under the PDS was reduced every year beginning 2001-02 till 2003-04, taking into account the number of LPG connections released in each State/UT. There has been no reduction in the PDS SKO to State/UTs after the financial year 2004-05. For the years 2005-06 to 2007-08, allocation have been maintained at the level of 2004-05, including additional allocations made during that year. Allocations for the first three quarters of 2008-09 have also been maintained at the same level.

The details of the quantities of PDS SKO allocation made to the State of West Bengal during 2004-05 to 2007-08 are as under:

Year	Quantities in tons
2004-05	7,48,228
2005-06	7,52,103
2006-07	7,52,103
2007-08	7,52,103

Consumer complaints in Gujarat

2070.SHRI VIJAYKUMAR RUPANI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of complaints received by the consumer courts in Gujarat during 2006 and 2007, year-wise;

(b) the number of cases disposed of during that period, year-wise; and

(c) the total number of accumulated cases pending for disposal at the end of 2007?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) The total number of complaints received by the Consumer Fora in Gujarat, during 2006 and 2007, year-wise as informed by National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission (NCDRC), is as follows:

Year	State Commission	District Forum	Total
2006	2294	16896	19190
2007	2565	11741	14306

(b) The number of cases disposed off during the period, year-wise as informed by NCDRC, is as follows:

Year	State Commission	District Forum	Total
2006	1888	16116	18004
2007	1618	10382	12000

(c) The total number of accumulated cases pending for disposal at the end of 2007, as informed by NCDRC, is as follows:

Year	State Commission	District Forum	Total
End of 2007	4735	20409	25144

Smuggling of foodgrains

2071.SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is large scale smuggling of foodgrains, predominantly rice to food deficient Nepal; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government to curb this?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) and (b) To check smuggling activities through international borders, Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance and Ministry of Home Affairs have their field units stationed at border check posts. Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB), which is deployed on Indo-Nepal Border, has reported that during the current year, SSB has seized food articles valued at Rs.34.638 lakh on Indo-Nepal Border. SSB has also reported that to prevent smuggling of food articles and other items from India to Nepal, vigil is maintained and required preventive action is taken.

Further, Department of Revenue, Anti Smuggling Unit (CBEC) has reported that food articles valued at Rs.355.80 lakhs have been seized on Indo-Bangladesh and Indo-Nepal Borders during the current year. They have also reported that their field formations maintain strict vigil on the Indo-Nepal and Indo-Bangladesh borders to prevent smuggling activities.

Grain drain from PDS

2072.SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN SINGH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of Government has been drawn to the reported grain drain from PDS;

(b) whether Delhi has the highest wheat diversion rate in the country and whether food diversion in North-Eastern States is no exception;

(c) if so, what measures have been taken to check the diversion of PDS wheat, rice and sugar into black market; and

(d) whether Tata Economic Consultancy Services prepared a report into the matter and if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) to (d) Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) is operated under the joint responsibility of the Government of India and State / UT